US Army Corps of Engineers

Great Lakes Navigation System

Detroit River, MI

Project Features

- One of the Great Lakes connecting channels; 31 miles long, flowing south from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie.
- Authorization: River & Harbor Acts of 13 Jun 1902, 3 Mar 1905, 25 Jun 1910, 4 Mar 1913, 2 Mar 1907, 2 Mar 1919, 3 Jul 1930, 30 Aug 1935, 26 Aug 1937, 2 Mar 1945, 24 Jul 1946, 17 May 1950, 21 Mar 1956, 14 Jul 1960, 13 Aug 1986.
- Deep draft commercial project.
- Project depths varying from 21.0 (a portion of up-bound channel) to 29.5 feet.
- 40th leading U.S. port with 17.4M tons of material shipped or received in 2005.
- Port of Detroit is Ranked 3rd among the Great Lakes Ports.
- The port is 35 acres with 2,150 feet of dockage.
- Contains various water level and compensating dikes and structures.
- A total of 76 miles of Federal channels, including up-bound and down-bound channels.
- Material dredged from the Detroit River is placed in the Pointe Mouille confined disposal facility located in Lake Erie.
- Major stakeholders include U.S. Coast Guard, Lake Carriers Association, Nicholson Terminal and Dock Co., Harridon Terminal, Inc., Motor City Materials, Detroit Bulk Storage, Inc., J.W. Westcott Co., Michigan Marine Terminal, Carmeuse Lime, Edward C. Levy Co., Holcium Inc., Koenig Fuel & Supply, Lafarge North America, Marathon Ashland Petroleum, LLC, Morton Salt, St. Marys Cement, the Rockdock, LLC, U.S. Steel Corp., and multiple trucking and railway companies.

Project Needs

- Requires periodic maintenance dredging (on a 2 to 3 year cycle) of approximately 100,000 cubic yards.

- Obstruction removal is required on an annual basis.
- The compensating dikes need repairs.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Significant loss of jobs locally, regionally, and internationally (5,800 direct jobs and 4,500 indirect jobs based from the year 2000).
- Estimated business revenue of $253M in 2003.
- Light loading; loss of between 1 and 2 feet of channel depth in the Detroit and Rouge River ports results in increased transportation costs of between $3.6M and $7.7M annually.
- Key component of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway navigation system. Disruption of service would have severe maritime and economic impacts.

Transportation Importance

- Commodities transported through these channels include coal, crude materials, manufactured goods, chemicals, steel products, petroleum products, and other general cargo, including overseas cargo.

May 2007

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, 2008 and 2009
Detroit River, MI - Project Needs and President's Budget ($1,000)

Work Package	FY07 Need	FY07 Work Plan	FY08 Need	FY08 Budget	FY09 Need	FY09 Budget*
Project Condition Surveys	725	725	748	748	880	
Strike Removal	2,216	2,216	2,105	2,105	2,280	
Maintenance Dredging – Primary Work Package	1,790	1,771	2,050	2,050	2,100	
Maintenance Dredging – Backlog Work Package					400	
Repair CDF at Pointe Mouille	260	0	260	0	260	
Repair Compensating Dikes – by Gov Floating Plant	600	0	600	600	400	
Develop Economic Models	0	0	100	0	100	
Environmental Activities: Grassy Island	0	0	270	0	550	
Environmental Stewardship			20	20	20	
TOTALS	**5,591**	**4,712**	**6,153**	**5,523**	**6.690**	

* FY09 President's Budget will be available in February 2008